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Northern Lambda Nord

Dick Harrison

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COMMUNIQUE

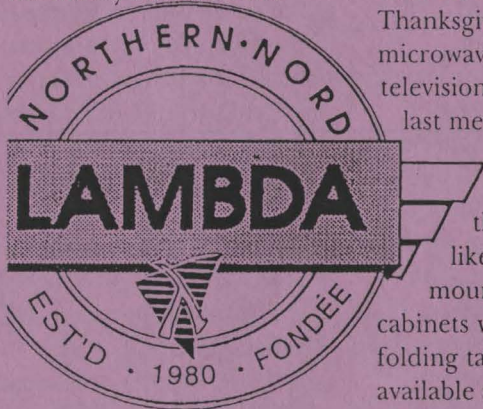
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At Maine and New Brunswick's Only Community Center

Policies Adopted, Open House & Women's Nights Planned

by Dick Harrison, Editor

You must be aware by now that Northern Lambda Nord has proudly established the first and only Gay-Lesbian Community Center in either Maine or New Brunswick. In the nearly two months that it has been open it has been a veritable hotbed of activity. Well, ok, a warm bed. Thirteen different meetings and events have been held there already; one area university student has used the library and brochure



collection as a resource for a report on AIDS; and a number of new faces have dropped in to see what all the fuss was about. The unpacking is almost complete, delayed only by the need for more storage cabinets. The distinctive white-and-pink-on-black signs outside make the Center easy to find. (If you noticed that they were missing for about a week, they were taken down

so additional coats of clear polyurethane could be applied to protect the finish).

Inside is a bright pink and black shingle sign in the hallway noting the location (it's pretty hard to miss when there are only five offices in that section of the building, and only three are occupied). Nine folding chairs have been donated so far. Some generous people have also donated two folding bridge tables, an upright vacuum cleaner, a big-enough-for-a-Thanksgiving-turkey microwave oven, a large color television, and a VCR. At the

last members' meeting we made a "wish list" of some of the things we would still like to have: wall-mounted storage cabinets with doors; two new folding tables (2'x4' ones are available at Staples in Bangor for \$30 each); a few more folding chairs; a new photocopy machine (the Canon PC-25 which we've had for over 10 years makes poor copies); a wall-mounted magazine rack; a compact refrigerator; a four-drawer locking file cabinet; an erasable planning calendar with markers; a paper shredder and trash can (also at Staples for \$60). So don't

be shy; please feel free to donate items or money to help purchase some of these things. Come by the Community Center and maybe you'll think of something else we could use!



This past September 21st, volunteers met at the Community Center to suggest policies for the operation of that space. These policies were presented to the members present at the October 16th meeting and this is what was adopted:

"(1) Community Center keys will be issued to the Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Librarian, Social Director, and Phonline volunteers.

"(2) The Community Center is a non-smoking facility.

"(3) The Community Center will be used for the following Lambda functions: Phonline, monthly board meetings, a drop-in center, library, and other functions approved by the Steering Committee.

"(4) The Community Center will be open during Phonline hours and meetings, as scheduled. Every attempt will be made to open the Community Center at additional times.

"(5) It is the responsibility of the Director to make sure that these

policies are adhered to, and to ensure the smooth functioning and maintenance of the Center.

"(6) A checklist of closing procedures will be posted at the door.

"(7) A Steering Committee member or Phonline volunteer will be responsible for closing the Community Center at the end of all functions.

"(8) Under special circumstances the Community Center will be made available for members' use if approved by the Steering Committee.

"(9) Offensive behavior will not be tolerated. NLN will refuse admittance to persons unduly under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

"(10) Volunteers will be responsible for the update of the bulletin board and magazine rack.

"(11) The following items will be available on the outside door of the Community Center for interested people: a current newsletter, a membership form, an NLN information sheet, a calendar of events, business cards, and other information recommended by members and the Steering Committee."



Starting in the summer of 1994, people were urged to donate money to allow Lambda to continue operating the Gay-Lesbian

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CP/POB 990 Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA Gay-Lesbian Phonline of Maine/Télégal 207.498-2088 (TDD/Voice-Voix)

Phoneline of Maine, the only service of its kind in the state. The fundraising drive was an overwhelming success; it resulted in the establishment of the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center in Caribou. To let you know just how successful it was and how generous the women and men of our community have been, here are the details:

As of Tuesday, October 18, 1994

NUMBER OF DONORS 17
AMOUNT DONATED ... \$1325.00
GRANT FROM MAINE BOARD,
HAYMARKET FUND \$500.00
GRAND TOTAL \$1825.00

We heard from donors from throughout northern Maine and neighbouring New Brunswick. We also received money from NLN members and supporters in southern Maine, New Hampshire, and Connecticut! The money raised is enough to cover the first year's rent (\$1500.00), one year's insurance on the contents (\$150.00) and a start on funding for the second year's rent (Lambda has a two-year lease). So don't wait for a funding drive; donations are accepted at any time and are federally tax-deductible in the US.

Since the establishment of this Community Center is

a landmark event in the history of Maine and New Brunswick, it was felt that we should share it with everyone! The Steering Committee had discussed having an Open House; in fact they thought about having several Open Houses: one to thank the 17 donors; a second for the gay-lesbian-bisexual community and our friends in the region; and a third which would be publicized in area newspapers

and open to the public. Well, it was decided at the October 16th meeting that there will be one big Open House day. It's Sunday, November 20, from 1-2pm (Maine)/2-3pm (N-B) for our community. Then after a one-hour break, the general public will arrive from 3-5pm (Maine)/4-6pm (N-B). If you're interested in helping plan the Open House, there's a meeting to do so at 6:30pm Wednesday, October 26 at the Community Center.

It's time again to become a member for 1995. It's also time to think about who you

want on the Steering Committee. Nominations are accepted from now until December 15; voting is by absentee ballot or in person at the New Year's Eve party. Nomination forms and descriptions of the responsibilities of the Steering Committee are included in this mailing to 1994 and 1995 members. If you're interested, don't be shy - nominate yourself!

If you don't speak out, you can't expect to change anything.

- Frank Lloyd Wright, architect

And speaking of the Steering Committee and members of NLN, those people present at the October 16th meeting wondered aloud about how to increase women's participation in the organization. The percentage of women involved in Lambda has been on a steady increase (see chart at left below), but is not near the "ideal" 50%. It was decided to hold a regular Women's Night at the Community Center. This will be the third Friday of every month beginning November 18, from 7-9pm (Maine)/8-10pm

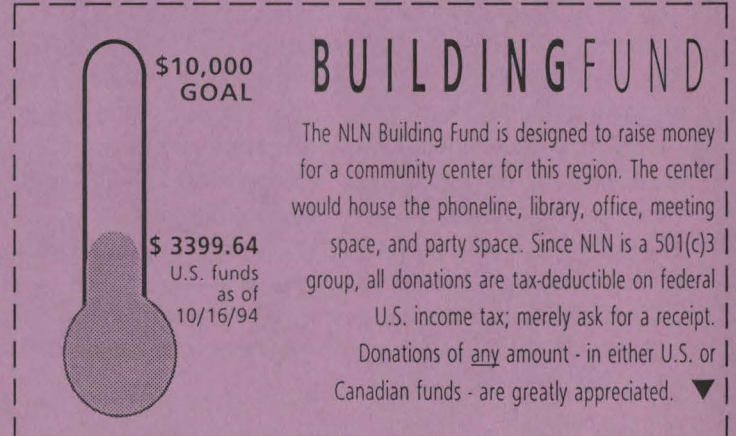
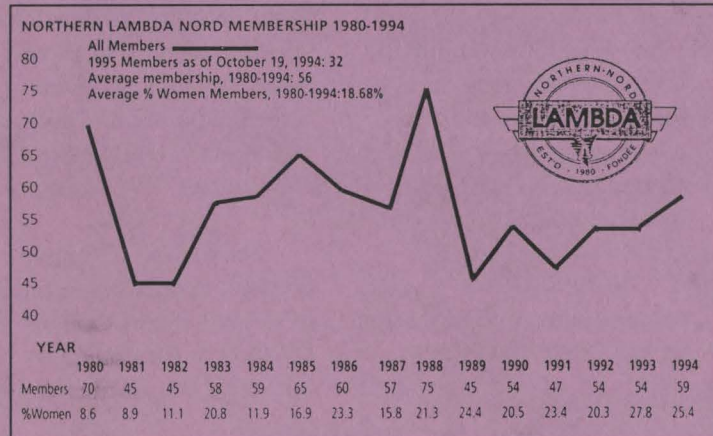
(N-B). A committee is meeting to plan these events.

One more quick note: The raffle of the \$100 shopping spree ended at the October 1st Membership Drive Party at the Caribou Country Club. The winner's name was drawn and he is from Presque Isle. Congratulations! NLN will have another raffle after the first of the year. Proceeds from these raffles go towards our Community Center building fund, which was established to purchase our own space. ▼

Hospice of Aroostook

Volunteers Needed to Help PWAs

Northern Lambda Nord has received a request from the Hospice of Aroostook, which is a program run by Visiting Nurses of Aroostook (VNA). The Hospice program helps terminally-ill patients throughout The County. Currently, Hospice has many volunteers, but most of them specifically refuse to work with people with AIDS (PWAs). There are currently 83 PWAs in Aroostook County. That's a huge



increase from only a few years ago. Many of these people are originally from northern Maine, had moved away, and have now returned home to die. VNA wants to increase the number of Hospice volunteers who are willing to work with people

**Do more than
belong.
participate**

with AIDS. They are asking Lambda for help.

Hospice volunteers must be committed. You will be required to take a training program which will teach you the skills necessary to work with people who are dying. This training meets twice each week for five weeks at the VNA headquarters in Caribou, across from Days Inn. If you are interested in becoming a Hospice volunteer, contact Connie Tucker at Visiting Nurses of Aroostook, 207/498-2578, or 1-800/439-1685; you can reach her in the evenings at

her home, 207/896-3093. ▼

*"Maine Won't
Discriminate" Coalition*

Statewide Group To Fight Anti- Gay Ballot Measure

You must be aware by now of the Auburn-based organization Concerned Maine Families which has submitted petition signatures to place a referendum on the November 1995 ballot in Maine. If passed, this referendum would limit the Maine Human Rights Act and prohibit any amendments to its list of protected categories, limiting the civil liberties protections granted lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and other sexual minorities in this state, repealing the voter-approved civil rights initiative in Portland, and perhaps even limiting the protections included in the non-discrimination policies of the

University of Maine system. It would also have an effect on Maine's hate crimes law, removing the category of "sexual orientation."

Several groups around the state have begun local campaigns to organize against this referendum. They have been operating under several names: Equal Protection/Portland, Equal Protection/Bangor, Aroostook County for the American Way, and a group in Ellsworth. They now form the basis of a statewide coalition called "Maine Won't Discriminate". Each local group has adopted the "Maine Won't" name and become a local chapter. New chapters are forming in Augusta, and Ogunquit.

In order to fight this referendum, it is estimated that, statewide, Maine Won't must raise \$250,000. So far about \$17,000 has been collected. In northern Maine, two members of Aroostook County for the American Way are putting together a budget for a local Aroostook

chapter of Maine Won't. They will request monies for a paid, organizer to work part time in The County. The money would be provided by the statewide Maine Won't group. More people will have to become involved in this campaign in Aroostook County if it is to be successful. As things develop they will be reported here in *Communiqué*. Stay tuned. ▼

Commentary by Dick Harrison

Vote For People Who Vote For You

There's an election November 8th in Maine which will effect our lives as lesbians and gaymen. In this commentary, I'm addressing the election only in terms of pro- and anti-gay issues and candidates.

Members of the new Maine Senate and Maine House may be asked to vote to approve a bill granting us equal civil rights, the so-called "gay rights bill". In Aroostook County, the

• S • I • D • A •

LES NIVEAUX DE RISQUE

LE BAISER avec échange de salive (french-kiss) ne comportent aucun risque. LES CARESSES ET LA MASTURBATION ne constituent aucun risque de transmission du VIH. LE SEXE ORAL Il est peu probable que cette pratique sexuelle puisse transmettre le VIH. LA PÉNÉTRATION ANALE ET VAGINALE non protégée par un condom constitue un haut risque de transmission du VIH, qu'il y ait éjaculation ou non. LES JOUETS SEXUELS (ex.: vibreur, godemiché) non partagés ne constituent aucun risque de transmission du virus. LÉCHER L'ANUS ne constitue pas un mode de transmission du VIH. Cependant, elle ne vous protège aucunement de l'hépatite B ou des autres MTS. ACTIVITÉS SADO-MASOCHISTES qui ne causent pas de saignements et qui n'incluent aucune autre activité à risque ne favorisent pas la transmission du VIH.

• A • I • D • S •

THE SAFER THE SEX, THE BETTER

CONSIDERED SAFE: Mutual masturbation, Hugging/body rubbing, Massage, Social (dry) kissing, Fantasy, Light S/M (without bleeding or bruising), Sex toys (when used only on yourself)

CONSIDERED POSSIBLY SAFE: Anal or vaginal intercourse with a condom, French (wet) kissing, Sucking (but stopping before climax), Watersports (external only), Cunnilingus

CONSIDERED UNSAFE: Swallowed semen, Anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom, Watersports in mouth or on skin with sores or cuts, Sharing IV needles, Fisting or rimming, Sharing enema equipment, douching equipment, or sex toys

people who have expressed support and/or have voted for us in the past are Judy Paradis in Senate district 1 (most of The County from Bridgewater north, excluding Caribou-Presque Isle-Easton-Fort Fairfield-Limestone); Carolyn Mahany in Senate district 2 (Caribou-Presque Isle-Easton-Fort Fairfield-Limestone); Martha Grant in Presque Isle, House district 145; and John Martin, Eagle Lake, House district 151. Those who are *opposed* to our equal rights are Malachi Anderson, Senate 1; Leo Kieffer, Senate 2; Margaret Ludwig, Senate 3; Henry Joy, House 141, Island Falls area; Dean Clukey, House 142, Houlton; Richard Kneeland, House 144, Easton-Fort Fairfield area; Jim Donnelly, House 145, Presque Isle; Julie-Marie Robichaud, House 147, Caribou; Douglas Ahearne, House 150, Madawaska. The positions of

Gay/Lesbian G•U•I•D•E Lesbienne/Gai

other candidates are not known. Give them a call if you're in their district.

As far as the governor's race goes, all four candidates have said they would sign a gay rights bill. Independents Jonathan Carter and Angus King have said they would *introduce* the bill.

The U.S. Senate race is pretty cut-and-dried. Olympia Snowe versus Tom Andrews. Their voting records in Congress are polar opposites. Snowe voted against permitting gays to serve openly in the U.S. military and allowing HIV-infected persons immigrate to the U.S.; Andrews supported both those measures. Snowe supported a ban on National Endowment for the Arts funds for "offensive" materials (a Jesse Helms anti-gay measure); Andrews opposed the ban. According to the *Bangor Daily News*,

Snowe refused to sign a National Gay and Lesbian Task Force pledge to not discriminate against gays in hiring in her office; Andrews signed the pledge. It's apparent who our friends in Congress are.

The most important reason to vote for Andrews is the broader picture. If Snowe's victory adds to the numbers of Republicans in the U.S. Senate, allowing

them to control that body, we will have people like Jesse Helms, Bob Dole, and even Oliver North (if we wins in Virginia) promoting their extremist homophobic policies. These are the people who have *never* voted for our interests; on the contrary, they are the friends of Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson.

Andrews votes for gay people - always. He supports us; we should support him. ▼

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New Brunswick • Maine • Nouveau-Brunswick

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA

GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE 207.498-2088 TDD/Voice - staffed Wed, 7-9pm (Maine), 8-10pm (N-B)

AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN AA GROUP meets Sundays, 7pm (Maine time) in Madawaska. Groupe bilingue/bilingual group. Call 207.498-2088 to make contact

▼
ACT UP/BANGOR POB 1554, 04402-1554, 207.947-3947

AIDS New Brunswick 800.561-4009

AIDSLINE/Maine 800.851-AIDS - Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till 7:30pm
AM CHOFSI Maine Jewish group, meets monthly; POB 5017, Portland 04101, 207.874-2970 (Rheatha)

APEX: A Point of Departure, published monthly by Phoenix Press, POB 4743, Portland 04112

COMMUNITY PRIDE REPORTER: The newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine, published monthly, 142 High St, Suite 634, Portland 04101, 207.879-1342

DIAL KIDS, 774-TALK for lesbian, gay, bisexual & unsure youth under 19
DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland 04104

EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 207.990-EMAN

FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS (FLAG) POB 1556, Station A E3B 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-9pm)

FRUITS OF OUR LABORS Lesbian-Gay-Bi events calendar published monthly, POB 125, Belfast ME 04915

GAZETTE For Lesbians & Gay Men in Atlantic Canada, published 10 times yearly, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, NS B3J 3S1

GAIS & LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/ GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM) CP/POB 1072, Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.855-8064

GAIS.ES NOR GAYS (GNG) CP/POB 983, Bathurst E2A 4H8

GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University of Southern Maine, 88 Winslow Street, Portland 04103, 207.874-6596

GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK POB 212, Bangor 04401, 207.862-5907/941-2189

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Portland, 207.772-4741 (Frank)

HARBOR MASTERS, INC. leather-levi group, POB 4044, Portland 04104

INTEGRITY Episcopalian group, St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union Street, Hallowell 04347, 207.622-6631

LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04102

MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 10818, Portland 04104

MAINE LESBIAN & GAY LAW ASSOCIATION (LeGal) POB 443, Portland 04112, 207.829-3379

MAINE LESBIAN-GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE POB 232, Hallowell 04347

NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORM/LA COALITION POUR LA RÉFORME DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK POB/CP

1556, Station/Succursale A, Fredericton E3B 5G2 506.457-2156

NO BORDERS/SANS FRONTIÈRES POB/CP 461, Campbellton, NB E3N 3G4

OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, age 22 and under, POB 5028, Station A, Portland 04102, 800.339-4042

OUTRIGHT CENTRAL MAINE for age 22 & younger, every Fri, 7:30pm 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St, Auburn; POB 802, Auburn 04212, 800.339-4042

OUTRIGHT TOO Bangor area Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual youth group, c/o POB 212, Bangor 04401

PWA (People With AIDS) COALITION OF MAINE 377 Cumberland Avenue, Portland 04101, 207.773-8500

SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick 800.561-4009

10%: Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men, POB 10536, Portland 04104

TIME OUT outdoor activities, monthly calendar, POB 11502, Portland, ME 04104

WOMYN'S GROUP POB 20082, Fredericton E3B 6Y8, 506.457-2156